

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
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**USTR Requests Consultations with Canada on Sport Fishing**

United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky today requested consultations with Canada, pursuant to Chapter 20, Article 2006, of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), on certain measures and practices by Ontario and Canada affecting sports fishing and tourism services.

In requesting consultations, Ambassador Barshefsky said "We are concerned by Canada's failure to end discriminatory practices that have a severe negative economic impact on Minnesota's sport fishing and tourism industries. It is my hope, however, that we can achieve a negotiated settlement of this dispute."

Since 1994, the Province of Ontario, Canada, has sought to induce U.S. recreational fishermen to use Ontario resort facilities and services (lodging, fishing guides, boats, etc.) by limiting the amount of certain fish they can catch and keep unless they lodge on the Ontario side of certain lakes that straddle the U.S.-Canadian border. Canada's restrictions, which now apply to 150 miles of the border, unfairly discriminate against U.S. resorts, fishing guides, and other businesses tied to sport fishing. These consultations are the next step in the section 301 investigation that USTR initiated on April 29, 1999, pursuant to a petition filed by the Border Waters Coalition.

Minnesota has already indicated to Ontario its willingness to work cooperatively to manage the shared resources of these lakes and rivers. We do not believe these Ontario measures are necessary for that purpose, because the measures simply redirect capital towards Ontario resorts and away from Minnesota resorts. The main issue is the differential and discriminatory treatment based on whether U.S. anglers stay over night in Ontario or otherwise use or purchase Ontario services or goods.